SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 1991

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MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(Month of May)

According to the Society of Exploration Geophysicists' latest report, the number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters decreased during May for the third consecutive month. The land crew total decreased by two to 85, and the marine crew total decreased by one, a net decrease of three crews, for a total of 107 crews. **This total establishes a new low number of crews and vessels working in the United States since SEG instigated its monthly survey in May of 1974.**

The May total (107) represents a decrease of 3% from last month, a 17% decrease from May, 1990, a 15% decrease from May, 1989, a 45% decrease from May, 1988, a 36% decrease from May, 1987, a 44% decrease from May, 1986, and **a decrease of 71% from the same month in 1985.**

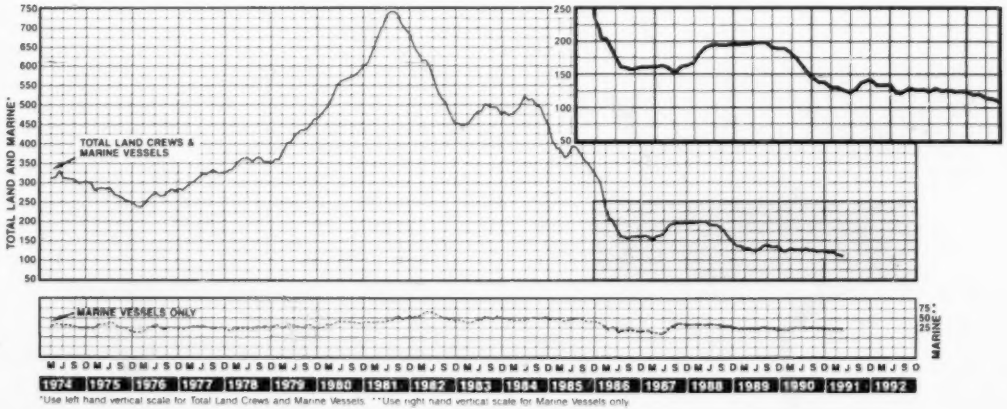
During May, three contractors were operating five of the 79 land crews and none of the twenty marine vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month 107	Last Month 110	May '90 129	May '89 126	May '88 194	May '87 166	May '86 191	May '85 364

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	May 1990	May 1989	May 1988	May 1987	May 1986	May 1985	This Mo.	Last Mo.	May 1990	May 1989	May 1988	May 1987	May 1986	May 1985
33 Contr's:	79	81	96	95	149	131	148	293	20	21	22	19	25	17	14	35
4 Oil Co's:	6	6	8	9	15	15	24	30	2	2	2	3	4	3	5	5
1 Gov't:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
TOTALS	85	87	104	104	164	146	172	323	22	23	25	22	30	20	19	41

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)


TOTAL LAND AND MARINE*
TOTAL LAND CREWS & MARINE VESSELS
MARINE VESSELS ONLY
MARINE**
M J S O M J S O
1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992

*Use left hand vertical scale for Total Land Crews and Marine Vessels. **Use right hand vertical scale for Marine Vessels only.

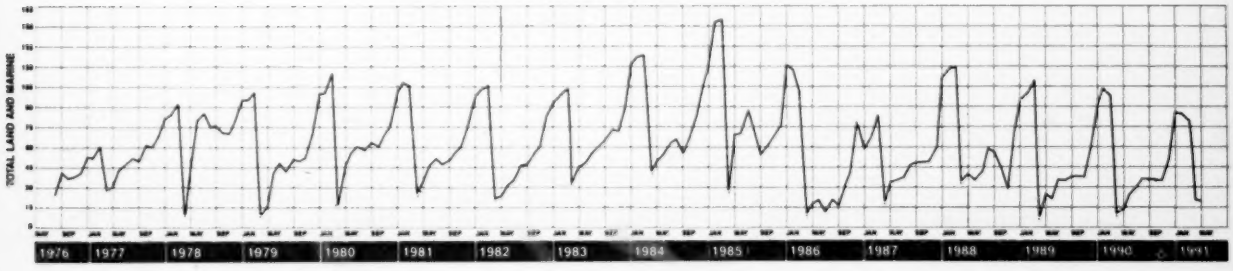
*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

May, 1991 (April figures in parentheses)

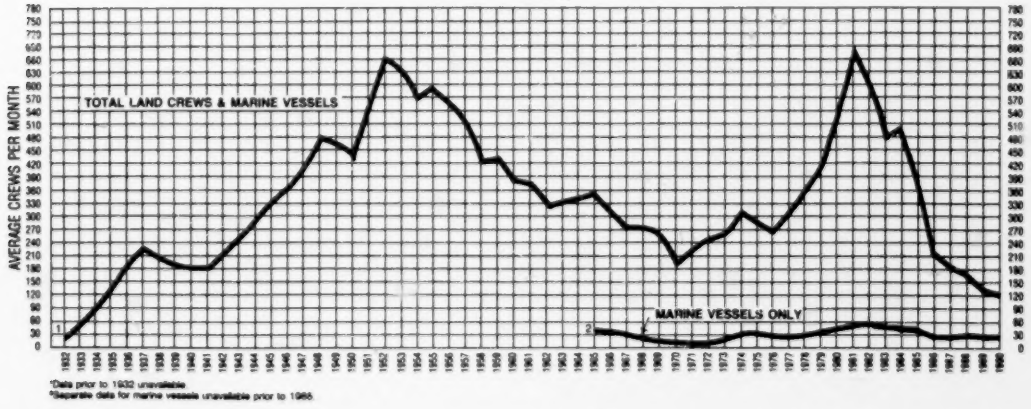
	Land Crews	Marine Crews
13 Contractors:	19 (21)	0 (0)
0 Oil Companies:	0 (0)	0 (0)
Totals:	19 (21)	0 (0)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was instigated in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(Seismic crews searching for oil & gas.)



*Data prior to 1932 unavailable.
*Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1966.